

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTRE 01720 151724Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 /053 W

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8252

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL QUEBEC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTREAL 1720

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: QUEBEC: ELECTION: FINAL ASSESSMENT

1. ASSESSMENT FROM MONTREAL IS MINORITY GOVERNMENT, EITHER LIBERAL OR PQ, ALTHOUGH DIFFERENCE FROM QUEBEC'S 333 LIES PRIMARILY IN NUMBER OF "UNDECIDABLES." OUR COUNT OF SAFE OR PROBABLY LIBERAL SEATS IS FORTY, THIRTY FOR PQ, TWENTY TO THIRD PARTIES, PRIMARILY UN, BUT WE FIND TWENTY UNASSESSABLE.
 2. FEELING AMONG LIBERALS HERE IS THAT THEY WILL BE LUCKY TO FORM MINORITY GOVERNMENT. EFFORT WAS ALLEGEDLY MADE OVER WEEKEND TO GET BOURASSA ANNOUNCE HE WOULD STEP DOWN, REGARDLESS OF RESULT OF ELECTION, IN HOPES THAT WOULD SAVE DAY. HE REPORTEDLY REFUSED.
 3. BANKS REPORT PRIVATELY REALLY HEAVY RUNS FRIDAY AND THIS MORNING BY SMALL DEPOSITORS, A RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNT OF MONEY BEING CHANGED TO U.S. DOLLARS BUT THE BULK BEING USED PURCHASE CANADA SAVINGS BONDS. IF EITHER MINORITY OR MAJORITY PQ WIN TODAY, THEY EXPECT CHAOS TOMORROW.
 4. ONE LEADING BANKER VIEWS THIS AS BEGINNING OF END OF CANADA WHICH WILL, IN LONG RUN, "PERHAPS FIFTEEN YEARS" LINK
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PAGE 02 MONTRE 01720 151724Z

UP WITH U.S. SAYS WESTERN PROVINCES VIEW PROSPECT OF PQ

WIN WITH POSITIVE DELIGHT.
HARPER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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